

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Klaus p. Stoffel on 07/15/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please make the following changes to claim 1 received on 01/26/2010.

Claim 1. (Currently amended) Device (1) for sealing the barrel side of the bearing of a roll neck (2), with a sleeve (3), which is fitted on the roll neck (2) and to which a race (5) is fixed; with a bearing bush (7) supported in a chock (6); with rotary shaft seals, which are coordinated with the chock (6) by a mounting (11) and have radial lips (13, 13') that interact with the race (5); and with a sealing assembly (16) arranged in front of the rotary shaft seals towards the barrel of the roll (4), wherein the mounting (11) and the radial lips (13, 13') together with a sealing lip (15, 15') of the sealing assembly (16), form a unit that is detachably joined with the chock (6) to provide a seal, wherein amount[[s]] of oil particles that are collected ~~is~~ ~~can be~~ adjusted by a size of an opening of an oil collection pocket (21) formed in the mounting (11) and that the amount of oil ~~particles~~ that ~~are~~ ~~can be~~ stored in the oil collection pocket (21) ~~is~~ ~~can be~~ set by an oblique position of the oil collection pocket (21) relative to the horizontal rolling axis of the roll (4) and a depth of the oil collection pocket (21).

Reasons for Allowance

Amended Claims 1-8 and 10-14, after examiner's amended as presented above, are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to **claim 1**,

It is in the opinion of the examiner that the art of record neither anticipates nor renders obvious "a sealing assembly on a roll neck wherein amount of oil particles that are collected is adjusted by a size of an opening of an oil collection pocket formed in the mounting and that the amount of oil particles that are stored in the oil collection pocket is set by an oblique position of the oil collection pocket relative to the horizontal rolling axis of the roll and a depth of the oil collection pocket" in combination with the rest of the claimed limitations set forth in the independent claims.

Closest prior arts examiner has found, Ito et al. US 4103406, Keller et al. US 6866270, Leisten et al. US 7566293, Poloni US 4679801, Salter, Jr. et al. US 4455856, and Rupie US 3107718, disclose claimed invention substantially, but fails to disclose above limitation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MOHAMMAD YUSUF whose telephone number is (571) 270-7487. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dana Ross can be reached on (571) 272-4480. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dana Ross/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3725

/MOHAMMAD YUSUF/
Examiner, Art Unit 3725